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OUR CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CAMPS:

A radio talk by Wallace Hutchinson, Public Relations officer, Region 5, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, delivered during the Western Farm and Home Hour Monday, July 3, 1933, over Station KGO and eight other stations associated with the Pacific Division, National Broadcasting Company.

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Well, friends, I reckon by this time you've all heard of the President's Civilian Conservation Camps that are scattered over all the States of the Union except one. It's a great undertaking for the rebuilding of the unemployed youth of the Nation, and I want to tell you that it's working out in great shape. The enrollment of 275,000 men throughout the country has been completed and practically all the camps in the West have been established and manned. Here in California we have more Civilian Conservation Camps than in any other state, so I'm going to tell you a little about them, as I've just come back from an inspection trip in the mountains covering some 20 camps.

For several months now, the Army, the Forest Service, National Park Service and State Division of Forestry have been working night and day laying out camps, building barracks and preparing plans to house and put to work some 35,500 men. That's some job, I'm telling you, and a ranger is about the busiest man these days that you ever saw. These plans have to cover six months of work in the forests - and productive work at that, not just hit and miss jobs.

I suppose you wonder how we're going to keep all these young fellows busy. Well, that's not so difficult if you stop to consider the great areas of National Forests and Parks out here in the West and the amount of work necessary to protect and administer them. Here are some of the jobs that the boys will be doing. Building fire breaks and fire lines in dangerous areas; road and trail construction to open up the more inaccessible parts of the forests; telephone line work; building fire lookout towers and ranger and guard stations; improving public camp grounds in the mountains for the use of campers and vacationists; insect control work and the control of rodents that damage the range; erosion control projects in mountain meadows and along scenic roads; reduction of fire hazard by cutting dead trees and clearing up brush along roads and trails, and a host of other forestry work of a like nature. Yes, the boys in the conservation camps are going to be right busy this summer.

Where do these boys come from? Well, about one-third or more of them come from California, and the remainder from middle west and southern states. They're a fine bunch of boys, too, and many of them are seeing the west and the mountains for the first time in their lives. They work eight hours a day, including travel time, for five days each week, and for this work they receive \$30 a month, but \$25 of that amount has to be sent to their dependents at home, so the boys don't have a great deal to make a "splurge" on. But they're happy, and most of them like the country and the work. I saw a bunch of them the other day on a trail job - stripped to the waist, brown as berries and as husky as any young man you ever saw. And you should see them eat. Most of them have two helpings at meal times, and some of them come back three or four times to have their plates refilled. When you think of these same boys as never having a job, and many of them hungry and walking the streets, then you realize what a wonderful thing this President's emergency conservation work is for the youth of the nation.

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Well, that's all I have time to tell you today. Hope you all have a glorious Fourth of July, and by the way, if you go up into the national forests, don't forget to leave your fireworks at home and be careful with those burning matches and cigarettes. So long and a happy holiday.

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